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Minuteman

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Vol. XXXIX, Issue 5 March 2007

School Mandates Bus Only Proms

By Helen Goodman

Recently, students learned that mandatory trolleys will transport students to and from junior and senior proms this coming spring.

The idea of prom trolleys was proposed by the administration with the goal of reducing the likelihood that students will bring substances to prom, come to prom already intoxicated, and/or leave prom in pursuit of becoming intoxicated.

Information about the plan remains hazy for much of the upper-class student body. But one thing is now clear: the proposal is absolutely non-negotiable. Students cannot opt for the traditional limo with friends, nor can they drive themselves to prom or take the T.

The current plan calls for students to gather at the park across from Hayden for a pre-prom reception.

Students will be permitted to take pictures at the park or take pictures at their own homes and then come to the park in time for the trolleys to take them to prom.

Parents will be present to help with picture-taking and refreshments. Students will then go to prom on the trolleys, and return later that night to LHS for pick-up at a designated time.

It remains uncertain whether juniors will have the same sort of pre-prom reception for junior prom. Regardless, it is certain that both classes will be taking trolleys to their proms. At this point in time, students are not allowed to get permission to opt out of taking a trolley to prom. Even Boston students, who live far closer to the Fairmont Copley Plaza than Lexington students, will have to come here to board a trolley to prom.

In general, students were confused as to why the trolleys became mandatory, when the previous plan had been to offer trolley transportation as just another option. The switch between optional and mandatory trolleys coincided with Andrew Stone's death in late January.

"Since that tragic automobile accident, there has been a huge amount of pressure placed on the high school to take precaution even further," explained math teacher and senior class council faculty adviser John Shea. Many students have responded to the new policy with anger. As of March 20, 473 students at LHS had joined the Facebook group "Mandatory Prom Buses is the Worst Idea Ever," created by senior Jill McNabb.

However, some other students are understanding and even appreciative. Senior Helen Shapiro said "I think it's good that [the community] is looking out for the well-being of the student body."

For seniors who had to pay for a limo out of their own pockets last year, the simplicity of taking a trolley to prom is refreshing.

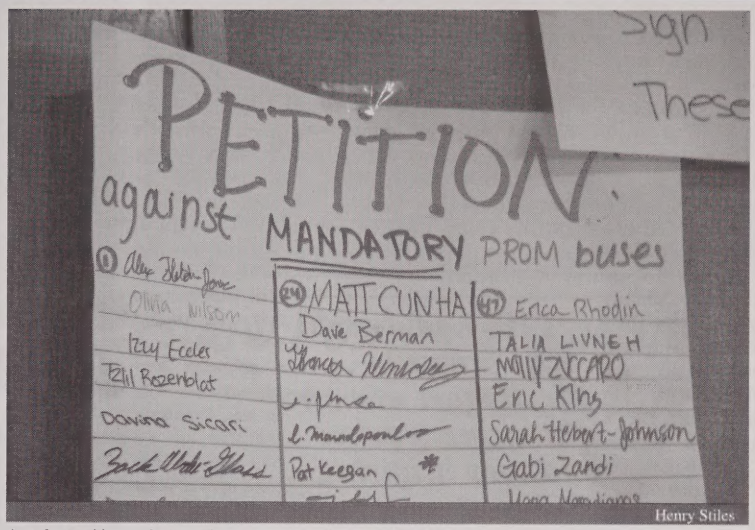
Whether or not they approve of the trolley plan, most students feel that the community's attempt to decrease underage drinking on prom night is futile. "Kids who want to get crunk will get crunk," said junior Nick Page.

> ***"Kids who want to get crunk will get crunk."***
> *Nick Page '08, on prom bus idea*

The administration and faculty are encouraging the students to try and make the best of the prom trolley situation. Spanish teacher and senior class council faculty adviser Beatriz Des Loges suggested that the student body "make this 'new tradition' at LHS begin by being the most memorable and enjoyable event ever."

The PTSA plans to help senior class council plan the pre-prom reception and make the event as fun as possible.

"We need to stay positive and optimistic in order to squeeze 'the best lemonade ever' out of these lemons," added Des Loges.



Henry Stiles

A student petition against mandatory prom buses hangs in the free postering area in Commons 1.

More Budget Cuts Slated for LHS

By Helen Goodman

At this time of the year, the Lexington Public School system (LPS) is again facing potential budget cutbacks.

Though a 10% increase over this year's budget was originally recommended by Superintendent Paul Ash for the 2007-2008 school year, only a 2.5% increase is allowed under Proposition 2 1/2. unless the town votes in favor of an override. At present the percentage gap represents a difference just under $5 million.

On March 6, the superintendent sent to the school committee and the public an "At-Risk List," which outlines the potential losses that LPS could face if the full 10% increase is not granted. The list is divided up into tiers, which separate different at-risk items in order of which ones will be lost first.

"At-risk" items for the high school include reductions in graduation requirements, changes in class-loads per year, freshman physical education requirements, a decrease in the debate program, an elimination of the German program, and a substantial increase in school athlete user fees.

Teachers, administrators, and other LHS employees could be hit hard, as well. Department Heads, who already teach two classes would see their class loads increased to three.

Elementary school librarians would also be eliminated and replaced by volunteers while custodian hours would be cut to part-time so as to save money on their benefits, particularly health insurance.

LHS Principal Michael Jones has vigorously advocated for the high school in this current budget debate through the PTSA newsletter, by writing to the Minuteman and by speaking with parents new to the high school at 8th grade parent orientations.

While it is a good idea for students to be aware of the potential cutbacks, none of them are at all certain at this time.

Graduation Moved to Agganis Arena

By Gita Ramamurti

On March 15, Principal Michael Jones announced that graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2007 will be held at Boston University's Agganis Arena. The school has entered an initial agreement with the venue's management.

During the past several years, graduation has been held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell. However, earlier this year it was announced that Tsongas would be undergoing major renovation during the month of June.

Following the announcement, an LHS search committee was assembled to locate a new venue. Assistant Principal George Mechem stated that the committee had considered several locations, including the LHS football field.

Commencement ceremonies are to take place at the same scheduled time, Sunday, June 10 at 2:00 PM. The traditional band and choral concert will remain part of the ceremony. Agganis Arena is located near the MBTA and has ample parking for 500 to 600 cars. The school has announced that they will consider providing bus transportation from Lexington.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LHS Graduate Mirman Finds Life In Comedy

By Rivka Barrett

In sixth grade at Harrington Elementary School, Eugene Mirman (LHS '92) was told to present a book report. Instead, he lip-synched to a recording of Bill Cosby doing stand-up. Now, years later, Mirman is pursuing his own career as a well-known stand-up comedian. And he has evolved from lip-synching book reports, to performing in clubs and on television.

Mirman first became involved in stand-up comedy at Lexington High School, taking several theater and video classes. He says, "LHS had a great arts program … Mr. Bogart was an amazing teacher and very inspiring." He describes his first effort at writing comedy at Winterfest, the annual LHS dramafest, with another friend, David Ramsey.

> ***"LHS had a great arts program … Mr. Bogart was an amazing teacher and very inspiring."***
>
> *Eugene Mirman*
> *Class of 1992*

Their play "was about a sane person in a crazy society being sent to a mental institution." Mirman recollects "having someone throw a mattress into the audience … Amanda Palmer (LHS '94) wearing Christmas lights, and someone jumping off the stage and handing out flyers to a fake show." At least "there was no nudity and no one was hurt."

With another friend, David Clark, Mirman started an underground humor 'zine called "The Muskrat" during his senior year, with fake horoscopes, newspaper parodies, cartoons, and self-described "weird" short stories. Also during his senior year, he attempted stand-up comedy at a talent show.

He attributes his sense of humor to the cliquey atmosphere every teenager faces in high school. "I probably developed an odd sense of humor as a defense mechanism. So thanks crappy jocks and hooligans for helping me become an artist," he said.

Mirman sat for some questions about his experiences as a comedy performer and writer:

Q: Some of the subject matter of your comedy is sexual or political. Is your intent to shock people or to make fun of people whose views you disagree with?

A: My intent isn't to shock people, though I'm sure some people find some of what I do blue or controversial. Still, your question makes me want to write a joke about a politician having dirty sex with an idea I disagree with.

Q: How do you come up with ideas for your jokes?

A: I have a bag I fill with ideas every morning and pull one out on stage. That is not true. Some are based on real life experiences, and some are based on things I see around me that need to be made fun of.

Q: How hard is it to make a living in comedy? Is it stressful or hard to find material for jokes?

A: Yes and no. I am maybe one of the few people that doesn't think comedy, or entertainment, is competitive. I think you have to find what you're good at, do it a lot, and build an audience that wants to see it. Once you do that, you can make a living. It can take around a decade, but it's fairly doable. Still, everything can fall apart at any time.

After appearing on HBO's Aspen Comedy Festival and Late Night With Conan O'Brien, Mirman moved to New York, where he currently resides. For five years, he has been co-producing a show in the East Village, "Invite Them Up," at Cinema Classics every Wednesday.

Rivka Barrett

LHS alumni Eugene Mirman has appeared on HBO and Late Night with Conan O'Brien.

Rivka Barrett

BITE SIZE: La Créperie

By Rivka Barrett

Want to eat in Harvard Square without totally depleting your wallet? Well, if you're willing to walk a few blocks down Massachusetts Avenue towards Central Square, you will find an interesting and affordable restaurant: La Creperie, at 1154 Massachusetts Avenue. It serves primarily crepes, ranging in price from $4.19 to $9.75. La Créperie serves fresh, delicious dishes for lunch and dinner and the service is efficient. One bite of their homemade crepes and you will come back begging for more.

La Creperie is a storefront up some stairs near Oona's Vintage Clothing. Inside, the restaurant is extremely small, with room for a few tables and a booth. Wherever you sit, you'll be sure to get a decent view of Harvard Yard through the glass windows.

The night I went I was the only one in the restaurant, arriving at 6:10. It remained quiet throughout the evening. For dinner, we ordered the Frenchy, the Firehouse, and the Leg of Lamb crepes. The Frenchy was a light, sweet crepe with green apples, melted brie, toasted walnuts, and a hint of honey. The Firehouse crepe was spicy, with sambal hot sauce, caramelized onions, and melted gruyere cheese. The caramelized onions were perfectly cooked and went well with the melted gruyere. However, the sambal hot sauce was a bit too spicy, overwhelming the subtle flavor of onions and cheese in the crepe.

The undisputed favorite of all three crepes was the Leg of Lamb. This "signature crepe" was topped by a salad of mixed greens and creamy dressing. Dates and French feta cheese were tossed into the salad, creating a masterpiece. The savory lamb meat was finely ground and had Greek flavoring.

For dessert, we ordered three more crepes: the Lulu, Chocolat Tropical, and one of the specials, the Banana Crème Pie. The Lulu was tangy and refreshing, with fresh strawberries immersed in lemon juice and sugar – for those who love to satisfy their sweet tooth with some fruit. Melted Belgian chocolate, interspersed with fresh sliced mangos and bananas, comprised the Chocolat Tropical.

La Créperie provides exotic, delicious fare at a reasonable price.

Metamorphoses: A Visual Delight

By Sophie Isaak

In Metamorphoses, the drama department's adaptation of Mary Zimmerman's play, students showcased not only their acting talents, but also their panache for costume and set design. Running from Thursday, March 8 to Saturday, March 10, Metamorphoses offered a fresh look at ancient tales, while conveying a sense of energy and fun.

Metamorphoses is a medley of Greek myths with a modern flair. At the center of the myths is the theme of love, whether it is love for others, love of self, or love for material goods. The consequences of these powerful forms of love are seen throughout the play, tying the scenes together.

Nature is championed throughout the play, as each narrator represents one of the five elements, and the symbolic tree represents life and balance Metamorphoses centers on interactions between humans and gods, and how these interactions follow us throughout our lives, shaping and guiding our behavior and fate. Although Metamorphoses is undoubtedly contemporary, its themes are ageless.

The set and costumes are perhaps the most captivating aspect of Metamorphoses. The set is extravagant with a real swimming pool on stage. The costumes also add to the feeling of whimsy and grace. Each element is swathed in a different color fabric that complements each other color. Because each actor played multiple parts, costumes had particular importance in order to differentiate between roles. All in all, Metamorphoses was truly a visual delight!

FEATURES

Bogart Goes On Sabbatical

By Sophie Isaak

As the first semester came to a close, students faced many changes in the new quarter. This meant different classes, different lunch times, and the absence of an important and well-loved teacher.

Steve Bogart, a staple of Lexington High's drama department, has gone on sabbatical. Because of Bogart's involvement in all things drama—from teaching classes to advising the improv troupe—his leave will have an undoubtedly dramatic affect on the entire Lexington High community.

Bogart explained that he is taking time off "to pursue personal artistic endeavors." His time will be spent painting, writing, and acting. With this new freedom, Bogart will begin a new period in his life in which he will be able to explore the things that he has always wanted to do.

Bogart's time away from the high school will allow him to take a moment to collect himself and generate a new understanding of what his career as a dramatist and artist mean.

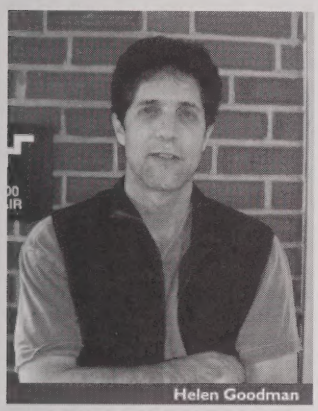
Because of his prolific role at the high school, many have been concerned with the effect the sabbatical will have on the students. However, none have been more confident in the capabilities of the drama students than Bogart himself.

He believes that "the drama students will be fine." He also has full faith in the new drama teacher, Ms. Jillian Singer.

Singer is a Lexington High School alumna, whom Mr. Bogart describes enthusiastically as "great." Despite Bogart's trust in his students, it is certain that he will be missed.

Since his leave, the improv troupe has had two rehearsals and both have felt far less "Bogartized" according to junior Selena Lane. Lane has been affected in two ways because in addition to Mr. Bogart being her homeroom teacher, she is also a member of the troupe. The absence of Mr. Bogart's friendly personality has left Lane feeling sad. "I miss our lighthearted conversations in homeroom," Lane commented.

Although students and faculty will miss him, this time off is vital to Mr. Bogart's creative journey. Despite the necessity of his break from LHS, surely Mr. Bogart would agree with Selena Lane when she noted that "It will be really strange performing without him."


Helen Goodman

Bogart won "Teacher of the Year" in 2006.

Hannah MacKenzie-Margulies

Emily Lenhart and Katherine Mechling receive a Singing Valentine from the co-ed quartet.

Snow Postpones Valentines

By Amanda Daigle

Valentine's Day 2007 at LHS was shaping up to be filled with Singing Valentines, sweetheart pictures taken outside the office, carnations sent to homerooms, and other celebratory fundraisers. It all might have been great if school had not been canceled for the first snow storm of the season.

Without school, the schedule for the Singing Valentines was pushed forward two weeks later, to February 28. However, students were grateful for the snow day and the opportunity for a break during the week before vacation, even if it was on an inconvenient day.

Singing Valentines have always been an opportunity for students to show some wonderful a capella singing, and this year was no exception. Early in the year, tryouts were held for students to be in Singing Valentine groups. In the week before Valentine's Day, a table was set up in Commons I where tickets were sold so students could buy them for their friends. On the revised day, February 28th, the groups walked, already singing, into the classes they had tickets for, announced their recipient, and sang to them.

The songs are always themed for the day, with choices like "Accidentally in Love" by Counting Crows and "Stop in the Name of Love" by Diana Ross. Many people marveled not only at the wonderful singing, but also at the singers' ability to keep a straight face during the recipient's embarrassment and the class' stifled giggles.

The main story on people's minds this Valentine's Day was the new rules for the Singing Valentines. In an effort to make the quartets more school appropriate, the administration put a variety of restrictions on them, including no more dancing for underclassmen recipients, no creative costumes, and the teachers have to "opt-in" in order to let them in their classroom.

Although one unidentified student described the Singing Valentines of previous years as "school-approved lap dances," the general reception of the new rules was decidedly negative.

"Singing Valentines time is supposed to be a fun time when friends can embarrass each other and laugh about it," says Julie Osburne-Rothstein, a singer in the program. "I can understand and accept that certain changes need to be made to make things less racy in the eyes of the administration or offended teachers. However, the extent to which these new rules have been taken just ruins the entire fun and humor in Singing Valentines."

The singers this year were required to wear all black clothes suitable for a musical concert, and to ask permission of the recipient before dancing for them. If the recipient was a freshman or sophomore, the students did not even get to choose. Instead, the singers stood at the front of the class and sang to the general audience after announcing who they were sent to.

Some singers were afraid that the new restrictions, especially the "opt-in" requirement, would cut down on profits. They felt that teachers who were indifferent to the Valentines would not take the time to sign up for them, so there would be fewer opportunities to send them and therefore less Valentines sold. The money gained from sales goes towards the LHS music department, so this was a special concern.

However, no matter how much the new rules disadvantage the Singing Valentines, people will still enjoy them. "The best part of singing valentines is seeing some poor kid's face turn bright red as he tries to avoid eye contact with you while you profess your love to him through a song. It's just such a great feeling," said Osburne-Rothstein.

To many people who did not participate in the program, the new rules may have made little difference. For most upperclassmen, the change was barely noticeable, and some teachers and students alike expressed fondness for the more formal clothing choice.

Outside of Singing Valentines, the day seemed to awaken a philanthropic spirit in the school as well. Among other sales, the money gained from sending carnations to homerooms was sent to Adopt-a-Soldier Club, and money from taking pictures in the lobby went toward the local Special Olympics. Since the flowers were delivered on February 13th, and the pictures taken the week before, neither of these sales were affected by the snow.

Committee Wants School to Attack Global Warming

By Henrik Cotran

In the past few weeks, a dedicated group of Lexington High School students have been attending after school meetings of the LHS Global Warming Action Coalition (GWAC) with Math teacher Jim Williams.

This group is composed of environment-conscience individuals who want to take charge of our future and the future of our children. They are doing this by recognizing that Lexington can serve as a role model for other communities by leading the way against global warming and pushing for renewable energy.

The LHS Global Warming Action Coalition is an offshoot of the Lexington chapter GWAC, an organization of Lexington citizens concerned with the effects of rapid climate change and global warming on our community and our planet.

In January, the Lexington GWAC launched the first campaign for the LHS chapter: the Lexington High School Solar Panel Challenge, a campaign that pushes for the installation of four solar panels on the roof of LHS.

In order for the school to qualify for four 2-Kilowatt panels, three hundred Lexington families must donate 100 dollars (tax deductible) to the New England Wind Fund by March 31. Already, some 250 families have made the pledge.

LHS GWAC believes Lexington High School students can get their families on board, if they are not already. LHS is already guaranteed two panels, and getting two more is simply a matter of money.

Imagine Lexington High School as one of the first public high schools to be entirely run on renewable green energy. Now, thanks to the generosity of Lexington residents, that goal does not seem so far away.

The LHS GWAC has hosted tables at lunch in Commons 1 and posted flyers around the school in an attempt to attract students. GWAC plans on soliciting Lexington businesses to try and get their support, as well.

GWAC meets after school on Thursdays in room 807. They urge you to help make Lexington a more environmentally sound community to live in. All are welcome to participate.

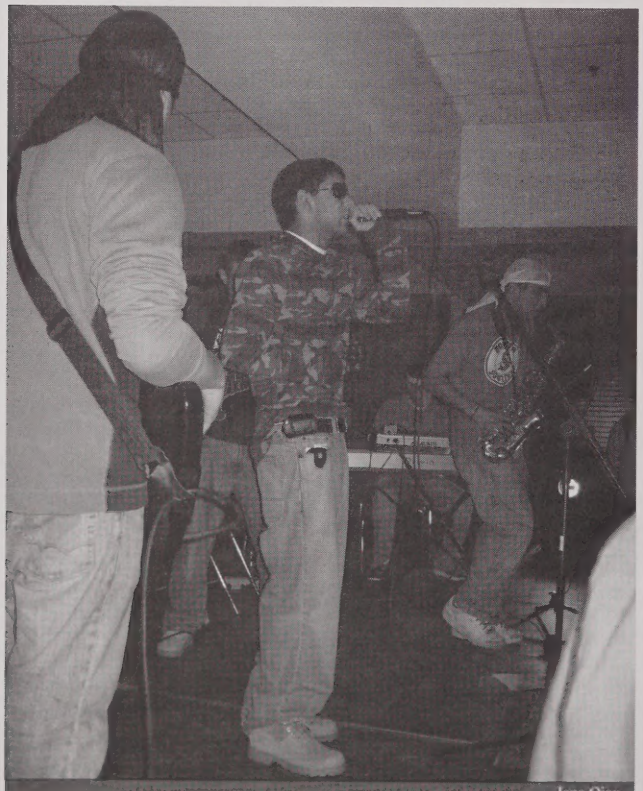
FEATURES

Jana Qiao

Dolphin Safe: Junior Jon Davies raises his arm in a fit of pop-rock excitement.

Jana Qiao

Du Rock: Seniors Dave Rancatore, Ken Ross, and Bennett Earle (from left) please the crowd.


Jana Qiao

Rancatore and Earle don doo-rags while Ani Sanyal ('06) raps from behind aviators.

Bands Rock the Commons

By Aisha Townes

Two stages stand facing each other solemnly as if waiting for the first chord to strike and the Commons to come alive.

Friday, February 9, was the National Honor Society's Band Night. It marked the breakout of new bands and the last performances of older bands. From those two stages LHS bands play and sing to their musically thirsty peers.

It's starting time. The lights dim down (note the amazing light system) and Station Break begins to play.

Following Station Break is The Tariots whose lead singer has perhaps the most notable look of a rocker (long hair, sunglass, etc...) and polished riffs. At the end of their set, a new band, Skankatore and the Zits, start to play funky and slightly psychedelic tunes. Their first song emulsified into a cool version of "What is Love." There were plenty more good covers to come from this band.

Following them, Ubiquitous takes the opposite stage, and then, Mark Saldana as Staring at the Sun. His chill acoustic solo provided a much-needed change in atmosphere. Immediately after this set, Apocalyptic Procession performed a metal set, full of great drum and beats.

Then there were the relatively seasoned bands: Dolphin Safe and Tracy Strangelove. Both bands reinvented their sound for this concert with Tracy Strangelove, domesticating their hardcore sound into a more traditional pop/rock formula. And, to a lesser extent, Dolphin Safe created more danceable grooves. The mood of the audience became very social as people bobbed their heads along to the music.

This was a great atmosphere for Du Rock to play. Du Rock opened with their rendition of "Déjà Vu," originally by Beyonce and Jay-Z.

They progressed to a medley of hip-hop and R&B to which the audience was dancing and singing along. It was ironic to hear the enthusiastic response to hip-hop in this affluent suburb. Then, Emergency Exit, another one of LHS' popular bands played their drum and bass heavy rock.

The crowd's response was divided. Some people were very enthusiastic, while others simply turned away. The final two bands were perhaps LHS most notable. Rapper and LHS alum A-Live came back for a surprise performance performing hip-hop covers.

While the music was good, it would have been better if the bands had performed more of their own original material. Without any disappointment from their fans, Iris performed last. Their style, unique with the power of Julie Osburne-Rothstein vocals, will be missed from the LHS scene when they graduate this year.

Band Night is a rich, Lexington tradition. Each year, new bands break on to the scene and old one's fade away. Only time will tell whether any of this year's senior bands will continue next year when the members have gone to different places.

Senate Briefs

By Eric Eid-Reiner

The Student-Faculty Senate is considering overriding Dr. Jones' veto of the Library Pass Bill. The bill would allow students in study halls with a valid library pass to go directly to the library. These students would have to report to study hall only after they have used the library. In explaining his veto, Dr. Jones cited concerns about the additional burden that may placed on librarians, as well as issues with the school keeping track of where students are. The bill's authors have said that the library staff was initially supportive of the bill, but has since rescinded support after holding a discussing with the LHS administration. If at least three-fourths of the Senate votes to override the Principal's veto, the matter goes before the School Committee.

got ideas?

Send in your letters, photography, comments, cartoons and whatever else you can scrounge up . . .

Leave it in the Musket Mailbox in the library or e-mail it to *themusket@gmail.com*

NEWS/SPORTS

Ruling Issued On Parkers

By Ann Wang

On February 23rd, a federal lawsuit filed by two sets of Estabrook Elementary School parents against the Town of Lexington and its schools was dismissed in U.S. District Court. The two families, the Parkers and Wirthlins, initially filed their suit on April 27th, 2006 charging that the Estabrook School encroached upon their Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment rights to "direct the moral upbringing of their own children."

Specifically, the self-described "devout Judeo-Christian" parents believed that the school intended to indoctrinate their children into believing that homosexuality was "moral and acceptable behavior." The parents' Christian beliefs condemns such behavior as wrong and sinful.

David and Tonia Parker's concerns began in 2005 when their kindergartener brought home a book titled *Who's in a Family?* that illustrated a number of families, including one with same-sex parents. The Parkers soon after requested that they be notified of any future discussions of, or exposure to, sexual orientation their son would receive in school. Furthermore, they demanded that in the future he be removed from class whenever a spontaneous conversation about the subject arose.

Repeated requests of such a nature were refused by school officials as inconsistent with Estabrook's parental notification policy. After a meeting with then-Principal Joni Jay and then-Director of Curriculum, Andre Ravenelle, proved unsatisfactory to him, David Parker refused to leave the school building until his demands were met. He was subsequently arrested and a no-trespass order was issued permanently banning him from Estabrook.

In response to the Parkers' complaints, Lexington Superintendent Paul Ash issued an official statement saying that, while Lexington parents can take their children out of any curriculum involving "human sexual education or human sexual issues," in this case that criteria did not apply. Ash pointed out that the issue the couples complained about only briefly referenced homosexuality and were intended only to "promote tolerance and respect for individuals," and had nothing to do with sexual practices.

A year later, Robert and Robin Wirthlin became concerned after their first grade son was read a book titled *King and King* in class. In this book, a prince rejects several potential princesses and ends up marrying a prince. Like the Parkers, the Wirthlins requested that theybe notified before a lesson or discussion focusing on sexual orientation takes place in their son's class. This request was likewise turned down.

In issuing his ruling, Judge Mark L. Wolf dismissed the Parkers' and Wirthlins' lawsuits, stating that "the plaintiff's sincere religious beliefs and right to raise their children accordingly did not give them the right under the Constitution to control or censor teachings and materials in the public schools."

He further stated that while parents can influence the school curriculum through the election of the school committee, or can send their children to private schools or home-school them, they do not have a right to "prescribe what those children will be taught." The Parkers and Wirthlins, who see the ruling as an attack on both their faith and their rights, are currently considering an appeal.

This case has brought a great deal of national attention to the Lexington school system and has galvanized a great deal of debate, both within the Lexington community and nationally. Superintendent Ash indicated that he has received numerous phone calls related to this issue since the Parkers' initial complaint.

Girls Bounced From Tourney

By Sam Miake-Lye

As the final buzzer sounded in the Woburn gymnasium, the 2nd seeded North sectional and 15th ranked Eastern Massachusetts Lexington girls' basketball team found itself on the wrong end of a 57-47 score against LHS nemesis Central Catholic. Although the local girls were able to cut Catholic's lead to 5 points with just under a minute to play, they were never able to mount the final push needed for victory in the post-season tournament semi-final.

The result, while disappointing, was a marked improvement from last year's first round exit at the hands of Lynn English. The girls had resoundingly beaten Beverly 67-46 just a few days earlier before losing to Central Catholic, the eventual Division 1 North Champions.

The team's starting five of Micaela Cyr, Nena Ugwuomo, Jessie Igoe, Michelle Martini and Allie Needham had given Lexington a solid and balanced attack all season while Molly Boudreau provided a much needed spark off the bench in both tournament games.

The postseason was just a small reflection of the successes the girls' team enjoyed during the 2006-2007 season. Their regular season play had resulted in a 17-2 record which was nothing short of exceptional. Lexington's only losses came at the hands of an extremely talented Melrose team. Ugwuomo, a junior guard, summed it up best, saying: "Overall it was a great season. Everybody stepped up when they had to."

The team effort was evident in every game. If any player was having an off game, two teammates were ready to pick up the slack.

The departure of seniors Igoe, Needham and Boudreau will no doubt have a large impact on Coach Paul McManus's team, but prospects for a successful campaign next year look bright. With three starters returning with playoff experience under their belts, Ugwuomo could not help but be excited for next year.

"I'm looking forward to it," said the team's most prolific scorer. "We got the right ingredients to stir in the pot." While thoughts of next year have already begun, there is no doubt that this year's season was the result of a fantastic effort by every member of the girls' basketball team along with some exceptional coaching.

Girls Iced In Semifinals

By Victoria Hines and Shama Pathan

The Lexington girls hockey season ended sadly in the Division One North semifinal with a 4-2 loss at the hands of the highly regarded Arlington Catholic team. Shortly into the game, Catholic scored a very sneaky goal by looping the puck around Lexington's fallen goalie.

In response, Lexington stepped up their game, taking nearly twice as many shots on net as their opponent. However, it seemed as if luck was on the opposing team's side as their goalie somehow managed to block nearly all of the girls' shots.

The fate of Lexington came down to the last fifteen minute period. Things were looking up for Lexington, especially when Sammy Woodward scored, putting Lexington back in the game. However, Lexington still needed one more goal to tie the game. Despite several passes in front of Arlington's net, no Lexington player was able to finish the shot.

As time ran down, Arlington became increasingly physical trying to slow down Lexington's attack. Unfortunately, Arlington Catholic scored with just 57 seconds left, and Lexington became desperate. They took out their goalie, Nina Riley, in order to play with another offensive wing. Unfortunately, this let in another Arlington goal just 21 seconds later.

After the stunning loss, Coach Jay Pelkey shared his thoughts on the game. "We played very hard, Arlington is fast and tough."

"The goalie makes a huge difference in a game like this," added Assistant Coach Kevin Lane.

The girls reached the semifinal game after defeating a highly ranked Reading in overtime. Team captain Leigh Riley said after that victory, "We played our best and nobody relied on anyone else to win, and I'm proud of them." The girls had beaten Arlington High School by a 2-1 score earlier in the tournament.

Lexington was the only public school left in the state tournament when they took the ice against Arlington Catholic. Despite putting up a spirited effort in that game the Arlington girls carried the night and ended what had been one of the Lexington most successful hockey seasons.

Despite the loss, every player, fan, family member, and coach can be proud of how far the team advanced in the tournament. So, bring on next year -- the girls have their skates all laced.

Musket

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SPORTS

Boys Indoor Track Team Wins State Title

By Geoff Rodriguez

On the first day of practice, the Lexington Boys' Indoor Track head coach Bill Babcock outlined his goals for the team this season: defend their titles as Middlesex League and Division I Champions, and bring home the State title. Three months later the mission was accomplished. Breaking countless records along the way, the team has secured its place as one of the best sports teams Lexington High School has ever known.

In league competition, the Minutemen boasted a perfect 9-0 record. The year's toughest competition was against the perennial rivals, Reading, who were defeated by Lexington 46-40.

In that meet, The Minuteman broke a total of four all-time league records: in the 55 meter dash by Darius Walker, in the 300 meter sprint by Meikle Paschal, in the 1000 meter run by Bryan Longo, and in the 4 x 400 meter relay, consisting of senior captains Walker, Paschal, Longo, and Alex Lach.

The meet also featured strong performances by seniors Tim Kim and Dave Brown, who took first in the two mile and one mile races, respectively.

The biggest surprise of the season came from Dhyan Adler-Belendez, a newcomer to the sport who recently moved here from Mexico.

Over the course of the season, he went from being a middle of the pack runner to being a Middlesex League All-Star in the mile, running a time of 4:32. Other League All-Stars were Geoff Rodriguez, Dave Brown, and the four captains.

Although the team was without 5th captain Peter Goodrich for most of the season due to injury, the other captains only pushed themselves harder to succeed. At the Division I Championship, Walker broke the meet record in the dash, and Paschal won both the 300 and the high jump with a height of 6' 5".

Longo finished 3rd in the 1000, despite the fact that he broke the previous meet record, and Lach snared another 3rd place finish in the 600.

As usual, the relay team dominated the competition, finishing 7 seconds ahead of the pack and smashing the meet record. This propelled Lexington to 52 points, 9 points ahead of 2nd place Brockton.

At All-States, the team picked up right where they left off, with Walker tying the meet record in the dash, and Paschal winning the 300 by .01 seconds and recording the 7th best time in the nation this year.

Walker, who had only had a couple of weeks to train for long jump, amazed everyone by unexpectedly winning the event with a jump of 21' 6 3/4". Longo ran to a 4th place finish in the 1000, while Lach took a 6th in the 1000.

Once again, the 4 x 400 relay team set a new meet record, giving Lexington its first Indoor Track All-State title in over 15 years.

Basketballers Dream Season Ends Abrubtly

By Simon Lehar

Lexington's top seeded boys basketball team roared into this year's post-season tournament with high hopes after running off twenty two straight victories. Those hopes, however, were dashed once again when sixth-ranked Central Catholic defeated the Minutemen by a score of 57-50 in the Division 1 North semifinal game.

The Minutemen were tentative throughout the contest, whereas they had been dominant in previous tourney games against the likes of Acton-Boxboro and Lynn English. In those earlier games, the Minutemen had overwhelmed an outsized A-B by a score of 84-35, and then annihilated Lynn English 64-40. Although the boys seemed ready for the tough Central Catholic team, the team did not play their usual dominant game that night. Even veteran Coach Bob Farias had to admit that the game was not one of this year's better performances.

Still the score was knotted at 50-50 with less than a minute to go when Lexington lost its shooting touch. Central rolled up seven unanswered points while the Minutemen threw up some desperate three-point attempts that fell wide of the mark. Poor free-throw shooting and some costly fouls at the defensive end also contributed to the team's defeat.

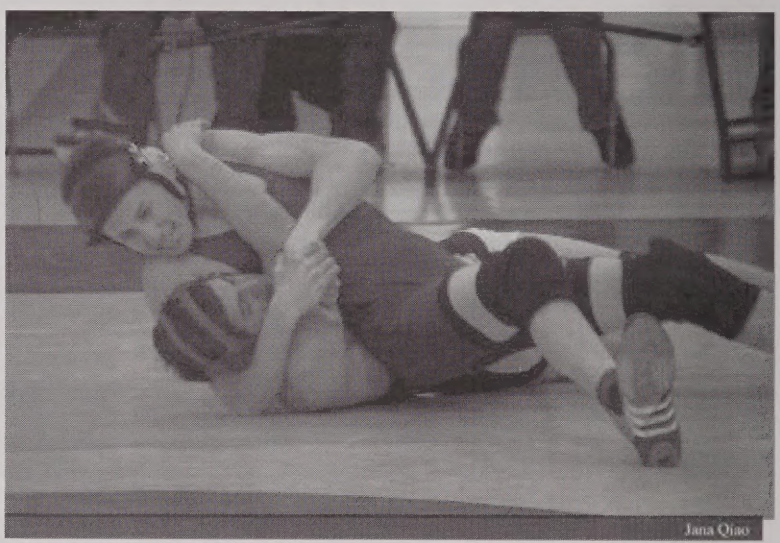
In the first half it looked as though the boys were going to run the table on Central Catholic The team's leading scorer, co-captain Tom Henneberry (16 points) was knocking down his usual assortment of shots, while sophomore Danny O'Keefe (13 points) was scoring at will down low.

But when the team's top rebounder, Matt Cunha fouled out with just over two minutes left, the boys seem to lose their focus.

The previous victories against Lynn English and Acton Boxboro were more in keeping with the amazing season the Minutemen have had. Against Lynn, Lexington led from start to finish, taking a 29-13 half-time lead and building on it until the final buzzer despite a couple of short lived runs by their opponents. Yet every time the losers mounted a rally Henneberry would step up by knocking down a killer three-pointer to reverse the momentum. The Lexington sharpshooter would finish with a game high 23 points. He was ably assisted throughout by teammates Cunha, O'Keefe and seniors Ross Curley and Mike Andryausukas.

The Acton-Boxboro game, a home game at Lexington, was a no contest from start to finish, as indicated by the lopsided score. For a change Henneberry was not the leading scorer, as sophomore Lance Greene came off the bench to score 16 points. Henneberry added 15, while another super-sub, junior Brian Johnson scored 11. It was on the boards, however, where the Minutemen big men Cunha, Andryausukas and Curley totally dominated.

That, plus Lexington's ferocious pressing defense keyed by guard Sean Sullivan never let the smaller A-B squad into the game. Poor field goal shooting and a porous defense by the A-B Colonials contributed to the blowout.



Jana Qiao

Fifth-place finisher Joey DeCarlo was one of nine Lexington wrestlers to place at the sectional tournament.

Popiel, Wrestlers Finish Strong

By Najeeb Hossain

The boys wrestling team closed out one of its most successful seasons in years with a 19-7 dual meet record.

In addition, six Lexington wrestlers qualified for the Division One State meet and one into the always difficult all-state meet.

The team's record was highlighted by the performance of first year wrestler, Junior Danny Popiel.

Popiel finished second in the Division One Central Sectional tournament at the 189 lb. weight class, fourth at the states and came within one point of placing at the all-states which would have qualified him for the New England championships.

Other wrestlers who distinguished themselves at the state meet were Marq Bittarelli (130 lbs.) and Russ Carpenter (152 lbs.), who along with Popiel,were the only Lexington wrestlers to qualify for the second day of the tournament. In the sectional tournament a week earlier, nine local wrestlers secured places.

Along with Popiel, Jorge Fernandes also took a second place in the 275 lb. division. Nick Bouton, (215 lbs.) Bittarelli and Carpenter finished in third place. In addition, Ben Schlosser (160 lbs) placed fourth while Adam Davis (119 lbs.), Joey DeCarlo (135 lbs.) and Cameron Rawnsley (145 lbs.) came in fifth. Lighter weights wrestlers Grant Forstall (103 lbs.) and Myles Adley (112 lbs.) both took sixth places.

The team as a whole also qualified for the dual meet state tournament. Despite being seeded second in the Division 1 Central bracket, after getting a first round bye the Minutemen lost a close 33-31 decision to a Brookline team whom they had defeated earlier in the year.

In that meet, the Lexington squad was hurt by the absence of a couple of varsity performers and some questionable calls by the referee. The meet was held during the February break and some of the boys' families had made prior vacation plans.

All in all it was a very impressive and strong turnaround for the wrestlers who finished with a .500 record last year.

Head coach Steve Lagow was ably assisted this year by new assistant coaches, Larry David and Andrew Baker, who provided some solid technical skills to what had been a group of very young wrestlers last year.

With only Schlosser, Davis, Carpenter and Ian Trainello graduating from this year's varsity lineup, the Minutemen hope to put a very formidable team on the mat next year.